



BONHOMME RICHARD'S ALMANAC

Vol. 2, No. 127

July 12, 2000

"I have not yet begun to fight!"



LOCKHEED MARTIN SELLS F 16 TO EMIRATES

By Dan Piller, Star-Telegram Staff Writer

Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Co. received the go-ahead Monday from the United Arab Emirates for 80 F 16 fighter jets, a purchase order that will bring the company \$6.4 billion and help stabilize employment at its Fort Worth plant.

The planes will be delivered from 2004 through 2007. The emirates chose the F 16 over the Boeing F 15 in 1998. The deal was considered so important that it was heralded by a visit by Vice President Al Gore to Lockheed's Fort Worth plant.

But the contract was held up for almost two years by wrangling over the Pentagon's objections to the level of sophistication of the electronic control systems in the planes.

The matter was resolved in February, but not until Lockheed Martin agreed to the emirates' demand to post a performance bond of up to \$2 billion as a guarantee against compliance problems for the planes. Lockheed Martin has said that the bond is not an unacceptable risk because the technology is tested.

The 30-day period in which Congress could act to block the sale ended in late May. Yesterday, the emirates gave Lockheed permission to begin producing aircraft under the contract between the United Arab Emirates and the company.

Lockheed Martin has a backlog of more than 200 F 16 orders, all but a handful to foreign buyers. The United Arab Emirates deal is the biggest of a series of international sales to buyers

that include Greece, Israel and Egypt.

Employment at the Fort Worth plant, where the F 16 is the primary product, has stabilized at 10,500 after falling gradually from 29,000 during the 1980s, when the Reagan administration's defense buildup was at its peak.

Lockheed Martin said yesterday that the emirates deal will provide employment for subcontracting companies in 40 states. General Electric will provide engines for the F 16's bound for the emirates and Northrop Grumman will provide a new version of radar.



SKSA Dashawn Bracewell of Supply Department's S-8 Division verified the stock numbers on a supply part he was preparing to issue to a Divisional RPPO yesterday. (Photo by JO1(SW) Robert W. Garnand.)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

U.S. APOLOGIZES FOR INCIDENT IN OKINAWA

By Doug Struck, Washington Post Foreign Service

A 19-year-old U.S. Marine who woke up from a drunken binge a week ago in the bed of a 14-year-old Okinawan girl and in the hands of local police has set off an international incident in advance of a conference of world leaders there next week.

The U.S. ambassador to Japan expressed his "profound regret" about the incident today, and American military officials slapped a new curfew and strict drinking regulations on all 26,000 U.S. servicemen stationed in Okinawa. The moves are an attempt to staunch the political damage from the Marine's arrest on suspicion of child molestation and from a hit-and-run accident Sunday involving an Air Force sergeant.

For Japan and the United States, the trouble could not have come at a worse time. Both governments were hoping that Okinawans' long-simmering opposition to the U.S. military

bases there would not boil over during the Group of Eight summit conference July 21 to 23.

That hope is lost. Opponents of the bases have seized on the incidents and plan a rally Saturday. Japanese officials, from Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori on down, have issued condemnations, and U.S. officials are bowing with apologies.

STOCK MARKET

The Dow Jones industrial average finished up 10.60 points, or 0.10 percent, at 10,646.58. The Nasdaq composite index dropped 42.91 points, or 1.1 percent, to 3,980.32, while the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index fell 3.28 points, or 0.22 percent, to 1,475.62.

BONHOMME RICHARD'S ALMANAC

*Capt. Robert J. Connelly, Commanding Officer
JOC(SW/AW) Stephen K. Robinson, Public Affairs Officer
JOL(SW) Robert W. Garrard, Asst. Public Affairs Officer
JO3 Laura C. Wiggins, Editor
LT1 Jimmie Claspell, Print Shop*

This newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services stationed at sea and their families. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the U.S. Navy and do not imply endorsement thereof.

WEDNESDAY'S SITE TV SCHEDULE

CHANNEL 2

1030 WHEEL OF FORTUNE
1100 COOL RUNNINGS
1630 ER
1730 JEOPARDY
1800 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
EXPLORER
2000 CONSPIRACY THEORY
2215 MAJOR LEAGUE

CHANNEL 6

1030 FRIENDS
1100 THE SPITFIRE GRILL
1630 BLUE STREAK
1800 THE SHINING
2000 THE NAKED AND THE DEAD
2210 STIR OF ECHOES

TV SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
DUE TO OPERATIONAL COMMITMENTS



Revolutionary Gator Of The Day



AMSN Marco A. Silva
Deck Department
2nd Division
Hometown: Donna, Texas

Qualifications: In charge of the maintenance, general upkeep, equipment inventory, and daily boat report for the Captain's Gig.

Seaman Silva has an exceptional level of reliability and dependability. He is constantly called upon to perform many duties that are normally assigned to a more senior Petty Officer.

One of his larger, more important responsibilities is to ensure that all of the small boats on board are maintained at their highest condition of readiness. Thanks to this unprecedented knowledge and understanding of small boats, he has played a major part in more than 50 boating operations.

He is also a key player in well deck operations. He has assisted in more than 40 incident free 1-A evolutions in the well deck as a Safety observer. His general knowledge of the Boatswain's Mate rating and ship-board safety have directly contributed to the safe and efficient execution of every special evolution that 2nd Division has been involved in.

Seaman Silva is a hard charger that is well liked by his peers and superiors alike for his nonstop drive and determination in "getting the job done."

DAILY DIET TRAINING



DC1(SW/AW) John Bobbitt conducted pipe patching and dewatering training for the Duty Inport Emergency Team yesterday. (Photo by JO1(SW) Robert W. Garnand.)



SPORTS

THE ALL-STAR GAME HAS LOST ITS MEANING

By Murray Chass

They will play baseball's 71st All-Star Game in Atlanta Tuesday night, and it will be the first played without league presidents. Sort of makes one wonder why they're even bothering.

As in the first 70 games, from 1933 through last season, the game at Turner Field will match the American League against the National League, but it won't be the same. The leagues exist in name only.

The baseball offices in Manhattan still have signs designating the league offices, but if summer tourists want to see them just to confirm their understanding of what the baseball structure used to be, they better visit soon. Neither the signs nor the offices will be there much longer.

The league presidents have already disappeared. Their absence

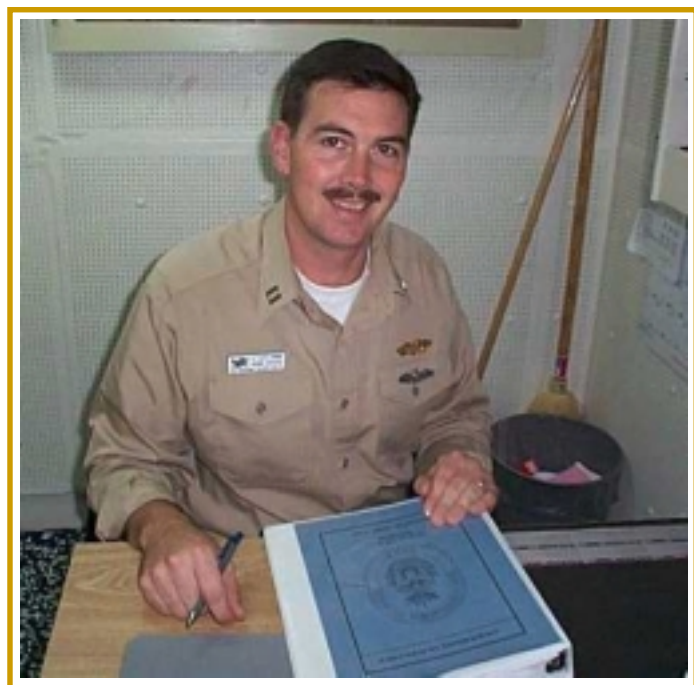
creates a void at the All-Star Game.

Chub Feeney's old heart would ache if he were still with us, knowing there was no one left to carry on his practice of delivering a pre-game pep talk, his version of win-one-for-the-Gipper, except in this case, the Gipper was the entire National League.

Leonard Coleman, the last NL president, and Gene Budig, the last AL chief, limited their pre-game clubhouse visits to handshakes and hellos. But they at least were in position where if they ever felt the urge to erupt with verbal fire and brimstone, they would have had the players' attention.

CONGRATULATIONS ENLISTED SURFACE WARFARE SPECIALIST

OS1 Rory Rothell
MM1 Mark Peterson
CTO2 Jason Baney
CTR3 Eric Barnes
YN3 Jason Nicholas (TACRON 11)
CTRSN Tabitha Silcox (CPR3)
OS2 Hector Guerra
OS2 Shawn Cooney
PH1(AW) Cynthia Harris
ABH1(AW) Alexandra Murry



Lt. Scott Mann, USS BONHOMME RICHARD's new Executive Department Head, chops the Plan Of the Day. (Photo by YN1(SW/AW) Anne O'Brian.)

MICHAEL IRVIN RETIRING FROM NFL

By New York Times

Michael Irvin, the Dallas Cowboys electric wide receiver, will officially retire from the National Football League Tuesday, forced to give up the game he loves because of a chronic spinal condition. If Irvin continued to play he would risk permanent paralysis.